



Vehicle Crew Coordination



References: TC 1-219, TC 1-248, TC 21-305 & 306





WHAT IS AN “EFFECTIVE CREW”?



- Effective crews are made up of assertive crewmembers who provide input to the Vehicle Commander
- Each crewmember knows they are a member of the team and are willing to help fellow crewmembers without being asked
- The entire crew participates as a team in mission planning, execution, & After Action Reviews
- With the exception of high workload conditions, or short notice missions, information is analyzed when making decisions & crewmembers contribute





WHAT IS AN “EFFECTIVE CREW”?



- The vehicle climate is open but professional during the mission, Vehicle Commanders establish & maintain this climate
- Crewmembers provide timely & clearly stated information to one another to maintain a common understanding of conditions, actions, & decisions
- Crew After Action Reviews are constructive and seen as a learning experience to enhance future crew performance





CREW COORDINATION OBJECTIVES



- Establish and Maintain Team Relationships
- Mission Planning and Rehearsal
- Establish and Maintain Workload Levels
- Exchange Mission Information
- Cross-Monitor Performance





CREW COORDINATION OBJECTIVES



- **Establish and Maintain Team Relationships**
 - Vehicle Commander establishes & maintains an open crew climate
 - Defines authority & responsibility
 - Vehicle Commander sets tone & maintains working environment
 - Effective leaders use authority but do not operate without participation
 - When crewmembers disagree, crews resolve the disagreement (Vehicle Commander has final authority with input from crew)
- **Mission planning & rehearsal**
 - Pre-mission planning & rehearsal tasks are accomplished
 - Crews think through contingencies & actions to be taken
 - Crew duties & responsibilities are assigned





CREW COORDINATION ELEMENTS



- Establish & maintain workload levels
 - Prioritize actions & distribute workloads equally
 - Discuss management of unexpected events - rehearse (rollover drills)
- Exchange mission information
 - Statements & directives clear, timely, relevant, complete, & verified
 - Maintenance of mission situational awareness (info flow)
 - Communicate & acknowledge decisions & actions (callout & response to acknowledge)
 - Supporting information & actions sought from crew (questions/discuss)





CREW COORDINATION ELEMENTS



- Cross-monitor performance
 - Crewmember actions are mutually cross-monitored
 - Supporting information & actions are offered by crewmembers
 - Advocacy & assertion is practiced
 - Crew-level After Action Reviews are accomplished





INDIVIDUAL COORDINATION



- **Communicate Positively**
 - Positive communications where messages are sent & acknowledged
 - Information is requested, offered, & announced
- **Direct Assistance**
 - Crews direct assistance when they need help from other crewmembers
 - This is not challenging the Vehicle Commander's authority
- **Announce Actions**
 - This ensures effective and well coordinated actions by the crew
 - Each crewmember announces any actions that affect actions of the crew

("Warning Shot!" by HMMWV gunner)
- **Offer Assistance**
 - Crewmembers provide assistance or info when requested or it appears another crewmember needs help





INDIVIDUAL COORDINATION



- **Acknowledge Actions**
 - Communication must include supportive feedback to ensure it is correctly understood (“Roger” or ask)
- **Be Clear & Precise**
 - Use plain language & clear terms
 - Avoid slang & terms that have multiple meanings (“I have it”, “Right”)
- **Provide Vehicle Control & Hazard Advisories**
 - Use Clock position from vehicle front (“Enemy contact at 3 O’clock!”)
 - Right side/Left side used in reference to how the crew is sitting
- **Coordinate Action Sequence & Timing so Crew Actions Mesh**
 - Weapons engagements
 - Turret movements
 - Combat maneuvering





STANDARD CREW TERMINOLOGY



- **To enhance crew comms & coordination use words known by everyone in the crew**
 - Words and phrases must be clear & concise to prevent confusion
 - Terms that have the multiple meanings should be avoided
 - Use standard terms for equipment found in operators manuals
 - Clarify what you said if not understood





EXAMPLES - COMMON TERMS



WORD or PHRASE	MEANING
Affirmative	Yes
Cease Fire	Command to stop firing but continue to track
Clear	Clear of obstacle or traffic (e.g. clear right) / Weapon is clear
Execute	Command to initiate an action
Firing	Announcement that a weapon is to be fired
Get Out!	Command to make an emergency exit from vehicle (say 3X)
Hold	Command to hold present position
Maintain	Command to continue or keep the same
Monitor	Command to maintain constant watch or observation
Move	Command followed by direction (Forward, Back)
Negative	No, Incorrect, or permission not granted
Now	Indicates that an immediate action is required
Report	Command to notify
Roger	Message received and understood
Rollover!	Command to brace / Take immediate rollover action (say 3X)
Say Again	Repeat your transmission
Slow down	Command to reduce speed
Speed up	Command to increase speed
Stop	Command to go no further, halt present position
Target	An alert that a threat has been spotted
Traffic	Refers to another vehicle, followed by a clock position
Turn	Command to deviate from current course, followed by direction
Unable	Indicates inability to comply with instruction or request
Up On	Indicates radio selected and frequency
Weapons Red/Amber/Green	Indicates loaded status of weapon
Weapon on Fire/Safe	Indicates status of weapon selector switch
Wilco	I have received your message, understand, and will comply



SITUATIONAL AWARENESS



- **To ensure the whole crew has and keeps situation awareness:**
 - Keep chatter to a minimum & “sterilize” communications to focus on the mission during critical events / times
 - Use vehicle intercom systems if they are available to enhance crew communications
 - Clarify what you said if not understood
 - Ask if you don’t know what was said or what is happening





CONCLUSION



- Crew Coordination & Communication is an art that good crews constantly improve
- Practice & AARs are critical in making crew coordination better
- Crew Coordination techniques:
 - Are combat proven
 - Can help you & your crew better accomplish your mission
 - Prevent Accidents!

